

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

**GENERAL PETER W. CHIARELLI
VICE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES ARMY**

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Chairman Murtha, Ranking Member Young, and distinguished members, I thank you for the opportunity to provide a current status on the Readiness of the United States Army. I thank you for your support for our Nation's Soldiers and their Families who bear the burdens of a Nation at war.

Our Nation has been at war almost eight years, and the Army continues to serve proudly. I consider it an honor and the very highest privilege to report to you on behalf of the 1.1 million Active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers and their Families on the readiness of the United States Army.

Seldom in the history of our Country have we asked *so much* from *so few*. America's Army has performed with a resiliency and professionalism beyond compare. The forces we are deploying are the best manned, equipped, trained, and led this Nation has ever sent to combat, and we don't ever want them to be in a fair fight with the enemy. The conversion of the Army to a Full Spectrum Force; one that can move seamlessly between offense, defense, and stability tasks across the spectrum of conflict; represents an incredible transformation of the Army as it adapts to the ever changing challenges of the strategic environment.

The near future will be characterized by a persistent commitment of the Army against state, non-state, and individual actors who will use irregular means to threaten vital American interests as they seek to achieve their political and ideological ends. These adversaries will exploit and leverage incredible technological and informational opportunities, and cultural differences to threaten U.S. interests. Our Soldiers and formations must be versatile enough to confront the hybrid nature of conflict balancing kinetic and non-kinetic means *among the populace*, and adaptable enough to employ

strategy to dominate the spectrum of conflict. My own experience overseas confirms that our Soldiers and our Army live the ‘three-block war’ predicted by former Marine Corps Commandant Charles Krulak. We translate Krulak’s ‘three-block war’ through our capstone operational concept: *Full Spectrum Operations*.

Yet, as has been outlined to this committee before, the Army is out of balance. The demand on our Brigade Combat Teams, Combat Service and Combat Service Support formations, and Individual Augmentees, is simply outstripping the supply needed to provide the Nation strategic depth for contingencies beyond Iraq and Afghanistan. The cumulative impacts of almost eight years of war are having impacts on the readiness of the Army. Institutional systems designed for a pre-9/11 Army are strained. Readiness is being consumed as fast as we can provide it. Given the theater demand for Army forces, our Soldiers and Families, support systems, and equipment are stretched and stressed. This lack of balance poses a significant risk to the All Volunteer Force and affects the ability for the Army to provide forces for alternative contingencies.

The key to current and future readiness is getting the force back in balance – where we are deploying forces at sustainable levels and can provide combatant commanders with forces trained for the full range of missions. Two years ago the Chief of Staff of the Army, General George Casey, outlined a vision to not only restore balance to the Army, but to also set conditions for the future. We have made definitive progress, but the next few years will continue to be as tough and demanding as ever. Your continued support in light of changes in strategic assumptions in our Grow the Army Plan, our Resetting of Army Forces, and our Modernization program are critical to helping our Army restore that balance and regain strategic flexibility and operational depth.

We see this outlined through four imperatives outlined by General Casey: sustain, prepare, reset, and transform.

A top priority for the Army and a reflection that this is not ‘business as usual’ is our continuing efforts to sustain the All Volunteer Force in an era of incredible volatility and

global demand. Critical programs and initiatives that include Recruiting and Retention, providing a quality of life for our Soldiers, their Families, and Army Civilians, offering world-class care for our Wounded Warriors in the 36 Warrior Transition Units and 9 Community-Based Warrior Transition Units; and attacking the roots of the rise in suicides, the trend lines in divorces, domestic violence, and sexual assaults, are directly tied to how we are sustaining the All Volunteer Force today and for the next generation.

The strategic context demands we continue to provide the best prepared Army for the Iraq and Afghanistan environments. As the Army grows and if demand is reduced, we will increase the time our Soldiers spend at home relative to their time deployed – what we call the Boots on the Ground (BOG)/Dwell ratio. This time will also allow the Army to shift from concentration on a Directed-Mission Essential Task List (D-METL), essential to the fights we are in today, to a Core-Mission Essential Task List (C-METL) focused on the Full Spectrum of offensive, defensive, and stability skills needed to dominate the entire spectrum of conflict.

To prepare we continue to rapidly incorporate the lessons learned from the current conflicts and anticipated threats into our training models, our programs, and our centers of excellence. Thanks, in large part to the tremendous support of the Congress, the Army remains the best-equipped Army in the world. We are determined to sustain this edge through initiatives such as the Rapid Equipping Force and the Rapid Fielding Initiative. We continue to scrutinize our processes of generating forces through use of the Army Force Generation Model which increases the readiness of the operating force through recurring periods of available trained and ready cohesive forces. We recognize that future Army readiness depends in large part on recognizing, leveraging, and cultivating a generation of Non-Commissioned Officers who capture the essence of the Army in striving constantly to perfect two primary responsibilities: mission accomplishment and taking care of our Soldiers.

The continuing demand for Army forces, the rotational nature of readiness, lessons we are learning from the current conflicts, and the anticipation of threats over the horizon,

demand that we reset our Soldiers, units, and equipment. The accumulated toll of almost eight years of combat operations reveals three broad components of Reset: reconstitution of equipment, reconstitution of soldiers, and reconstitution of units. We are prudently using our reset operations to upgrade and modernize our equipment to meet the current threat and future mission requirements. Resetting our Soldiers means creating the time for them to become reacquainted with their Families, catch up on needed professional schooling, or to train new skills. Our units reset under the Army Force Generation Model to synchronize the flow in and out of Soldier, equipment, and training to ensure they are at the highest level of personnel manning, equipment readiness, and training standards for the next mission whatever it may be.

We must continue to transform to meet the demands of the changing strategic environment and the needs of the combatant commanders. We continue to reorganize with over 84% of our units converted to modular formations. The publication of a new operational concept in the new Field Manual 3-0, *Full Spectrum Operations*, provides a relevant framework for how we approach the strategic operating environment and how we educate and train our leaders and Soldiers. It puts Stability operations on equal footing with Offensive and Defensive operations. We have complemented this new operating concept with an updated vision of how to train and develop Soldiers with the publication of our new Field Manual 7-0, *Training for Full Spectrum Operations*. Our Combat Training Centers have been retooled to train our formations within a 'full spectrum' environment, and we have invigorated the language and cultural skills needed to create advantage.

The immediate spin-outs and Army-wide proliferation of Future Combat Systems technology across the operational force is the core of our modernization effort. The transformation of the National Guard and Reserves to an operational reserve significantly enhances the already considerable value the Reserve Components provides to the Nation. The Grow the Army Initiatives, Base Realignment and Closure, and the Global Defense Posture Realignment represent the largest realignment of Army

Forces since World War II. And we are doing this while fighting two wars with over 180,000 Soldiers consistently deployed around the world.

Finally, while we have accepted risk within the Generating Force to provide Soldiers to the Operating Force, we are beginning to make significant institutional changes to the processes and systems of the Generating Force to support the rotational readiness of our Forces on behalf of the Nation.

Three areas under the Four Imperatives that I consider *critical* to Readiness of the Army:

Modernization – As planned, all Army formations will have transformed to a Modular design by the end of 2013. The modernization level of the equipment contained within those modular designs is constantly being updated based on rates of procurement and the prioritization of distribution tied to operational demand for Army forces. In response to the uncertainty of threats within the irregular warfare environment, the Army has invested heavily in rapidly developed equipment and technologies to enhance Soldier survivability, lethality, and mobility.

The Future Combat Systems program, along with complementary programs, continues to be the center-piece of the Army's modernization effort. The accelerated spin-outs of newly developed technologies from the Future Combat Systems program into deployed or deploying combat formations is giving us the additional versatility we need for today's fights, and will create the transformational formations and capabilities we will need to meet tomorrow's full spectrum requirements. This will provide the Nation a Future Combat Systems enabled Army which can dominate across the spectrum of conflict.

Growth of the Army – The Army is grateful to the Congress for authorizing and resourcing the Growth of the Army. We will have completed this growth well ahead of schedule and are moving to train and efficiently distribute these Soldiers into our formations.

We are seeing incredible improvements in our ability to Recruit and Retain Soldiers. More and more applicants meet our enlistment standards without waivers, in part because of poor economic conditions, but alarmingly, only three out of ten applicants are even eligible for Military Service. It is important to recognize that the continued use of targeted Retention incentives help us keep great Soldiers and Families in the Army even after almost eight years of continuous conflict.

Full and Timely Funding – The FY10 President’s Budget Submission has not been finalized and submitted to Congress, and it would be premature to discuss funding levels desired.

Within the FY09 funding streams, the Army today has sufficient funds to pay military personnel and to continue operations through June. We are nearing completion of the FY09 Supplemental request. The passage of the Supplemental by May 2009 will ensure efficiency of operations and guarantees a continuation of operations without disruption. A key component of the supplemental request is funding to reset Army equipment. In total FY09 dollars will fund the reset of 32 Brigades over FY09 and FY10, and over 80,000 items of equipment. Any delay in reset procurement funding will negatively impact the equipment readiness of the Army.

In closing, we must continue to invest in the centerpiece of our Army – the Soldiers and the Families that support them. For almost eight years our Soldiers have demonstrated incredible valor and resilience over the cumulative duration of this conflict, and the Congress has never failed to provide them tremendous support. Restoring balance between global demand and the supply of Army forces is directly tied to readiness and sets conditions for the future. Timely funding allows the Nation’s Army to alleviate the stress we have placed on our Soldiers and their Families, reset and modernize our equipment, and expand our training across the spectrum of conflict to give the Nation the strategic depth it needs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the committee. Army Strong.